

REMARKS

The office action of May 21, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Fasoli et al.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fasoli et al. in view of the patent to Coassin et al.

Finally, it is noted that claims 4 and 6 are allowed and claims 5 and 7-9 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1-3, 5 and 7-9.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 2-3, 5 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

With the above-mentioned changes it is further submitted that claims 4-9 are in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Fasoli, et al., it can be seen that this patent discloses a method to equalize the temperature in a heating furnace with a controlled-oxidation ambient and heating furnace carrying out the method. Fasoli et al. do not disclose a method for producing steel strip in which the descaling operation is carried out by a descaling system located in the furnace and connected with moving devices for allowing the system to move in the direction of

conveyance, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Coassin et al. discloses a line to produce strip and/or sheet.

The Examiner combined Coassin et al. with Fasoli et al. in determining that claim 3 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references, nor their combination, teach a method for producing steel strip in which the descaling operation is carried out by a descaling system located in the furnace and connected with moving devices for allowing the system to move in the direction of conveyance, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

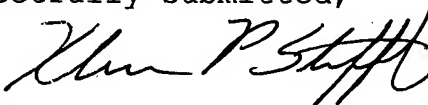
HM-719

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Dated: October 22, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 22, 2007.

By:


Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: October 22, 2007